

September 21, 2011

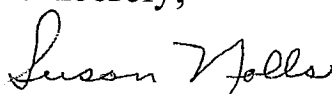
Statement for Illinois Human Services Commission

Re: Impact of budget cuts on human services

As an Advocate working for the Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living, I see what can happen for people with disabilities. I am aware of four people who have successfully transitioned out of JDC and ARC into the community and now living in apartments with community support. Those institutions are closed or threatened with closure. My concern is that resources to help more folks are not in place yet with adequate supports to transition the folks who may be forced out due to closures.

There is a need for advocates to be involved with the staffing of these folks so that their rights to self-determination and or direction can be addressed. Often the placement of these people is done on a basis of availability of a bed rather than what is best for them such as placement near family which is the natural support system.

Sincerely,



Susan Nolls
Youth Advocate
JACIL